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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

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W-1 (Salt) OF ALL RIGHTS TO USE WATER IN THE W-2 (Verde) W-3 (Upper Gila) W-4 (San Pedro) (Consolidated)

Contested Case No. W1-11-2805

ORDER DENYING ASLD'S SECOND MOTION FOR STAY

CONTESTED CASE NAME: In re State Land Department - Paul L. Sale Investment Co.

HSR INVOLVED: San Pedro River Watershed Hydrographic Survey Report.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: Arizona State Land Department's Second Motion to Stay is denied.

NUMBER OF PAGES: 4

DATE OF FILING: November 15, 2022

IN RE THE GENERAL ADJUDICATION

GILA RIVER SYSTEM AND SOURCE

The Arizona State Land Department ("ASLD") filed a second motion to stay the case until there is a final order from the Superior Court on the issue of whether pre-1919 water rights are subject to statutory forfeiture. It makes the argument that if a decision were issued finding pre-1919 water rights cannot be forfeited, the parties and the Court will unnecessarily expend resources to reinstate this case. While this is not an unreasonable argument, the fact, as stated Emily Natale

by the Gila River Indian Community, is that all issues in this case have been resolved so there are no proceedings remaining that can be stayed.

The Salt River Project joined with the ASLD's Motion and made the argument that a stay would serve the interests of judicial efficiency by possibly eliminating the need for the issuance of a Rule 53 report and associated briefing. The Rules for Proceedings Before the Special Master certainly do not contemplate that a Rule 53 must be prepared in each contested case. To the contrary, §14.00 directs that a decision for each contested case shall be prepared and those decision will be collectively submitted as part of the Master's Report as described in §16.00. There may be situations, however, whether the adjudication will be advanced by the submission of a decision as a Rule 53 Report to the Superior Court judge for review and decision. This contested case does not present such a situation. The issues presented in this case, other than the legal issues concerning the forfeitability of pre-1919 water rights, required a decision based on the facts and circumstances presented in this contested case.

Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED denying the Arizona State Land Department's Second Motion to Stay.

Susan Ward Harris
Special Master

In Hamis

The original of the foregoing was delivered to the Clerk of the Maricopa County Superior Court on November 15, 2022, for filing and distributing a copy to all persons listed on the Court approved mailing list for this Contested Case.

Court Approved Mailing List In re State Land Department - Paul L. Sale Investment Co., Contested Case No. W1-11-2805 W1-11-2805 (15 Names) Prepared by the Special Master 11/15/2022

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